

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6659

BILL NUMBER: SB 126

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 1, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Legislator Members of Great Lakes Commission.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Zakas

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Wolkins

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill reduces the number of members appointed by the Governor to the Great Lakes Commission from five to three, and provides that one of those members is a nonvoting member. It also requires the chairman of the Legislative Council to appoint two legislators to the Great Lakes Commission, one of whom is a nonvoting member.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill will raise state expenditures by an estimated \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year. This bill requires the chairman of the Legislative Council to appoint two legislators to the Great Lakes Commission (GLC). This bill also reduces the number of members appointed by the Governor to the GLC from five to three. This bill also provides that one of the Governor's appointees and one of the chairman's appointees be nonvoting members. The total number of Indiana members of the GLC would not change.

By requiring two legislators be appointed by the chairman, this bill would raise the cost of reimbursement paid to the members of the GLC. Currently there are two lay members and three state employees serving on this commission. The lay members are paid \$50 a day in subsistence, 34 cents per mile traveled, and are reimbursed for their other travel expenses. The state employee members are paid \$32 a day in subsistence, no mileage rate, and are reimbursed for other travel expenses. Legislative members would be entitled to \$134 per day in per diem, 37.5 cents per mile traveled, as well as reimbursement for other travel expenses.

The exact increase in expenditures depends on whether the 3 non-legislative members are state employees or lay members, as well as where the GLC holds their meetings. Since the GLC is made up of members

representing each of the Great Lakes states, most of the meetings are held out of state. The GLC meets twice a year. In CY 2003 they met in Chicago, Illinois, and Indianapolis, Indiana. In CY 2004 they met in Toronto, Canada, and Cleveland, Ohio.

The legislative members would be paid per diem and reimbursed for travel from the budget of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA). Therefore this bill will result in an increase in expenditures for the LSA.

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) pays the members who claim subsistence and travel expenses. Therefore, this bill would result in a decrease in expenditures for the DNR.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Services Agency; Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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